

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN SS-25

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PM/SAS - (INFO)

DOD/OP-611 - CAPT. JACKSON

L/NEA:KHUFFMAN

DOD/MRA - MR. BARRINGER

DOD/JCS - CAPT. GRAFFUM

S/S-JPMOFFAT

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O R 282116Z FEB 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MANAMA IMMEDIATE

COMIDEASTFOR IMMEDIATE

INFO SECDEF

CNO

CINCEUR

CINCUSNAVEUR

S E C R E T STATE 045838

EXDIS - MILITARY ADDDEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, BA, US

SUBJECT: MIDEASTFOR: REASSURANCES REGARDING FORCE ROLE

REF: (A) MANAMA 0204; (B) STATE 018316

MIL ADDRESSEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

1. BEFORE WE CAN CONSIDER WHETHER TO PROCEED IN TRYING
TO FORMULATE KIND OF POLITICAL ASSURANCE SUGGESTED BY

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BAHARNA IN REFTEL (A), AMBASSADOR SHOULD CALL ON RULER OR

PRIME MINISTER TO REVIEW ALL STEPS WE HAVE TAKEN IN BEING
RESPONSIVE TO BAHRAIN'S REQUESTS REGARDING MIDEASTFOR.

2. YOU SHOULD POINT OUT THAT WE HAVE METICULOUSLY RE-
SPONDED TO EACH BAHRAIN REQUEST ON CRIMINAL JURISDICTION,
ON RENT, AND IN PROVIDING REASSURANCES RE MIDEASTFOR ROLE.
WE HAVE BEEN RESPONSIVE IN PLANNING TO GET UNDERWAY A
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM. WE THOUGHT THAT WE HAD MET
ALL BAHRAIN REQUESTS, AND WERE PLEASED TO BE INFORMED GOB
HAD AGREED IN PRINCIPLE THAT ALL POINTS WERE MET. BUT WE
HAVE BEEN DISTURBED THAT ADDITIONAL PROBLEMS CONTINUE TO
BE RAISED. MOST RECENT IS REQUEST BY MINSTATE FOR LEGAL
AFFAIRS (PARA 1) WHICH SEEM TO REFLECT GOB DOUBT AS TO
OUR SINCERITY IN AFFIRMING OUR DESIRE FOR CLOSE AND MOST

FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH BAHRAIN.

3. WITH REGARD TO SPECIFIC WRITTEN ASSURANCES WHICH YOU
HAVE ALREADY BEEN AUTHORIZED TO CARRY TO GOB (PENULTI-
MATE PARAGRAPH IN LETTER CONTAINED IN PARA 4 IN REFTEL B)
AND ESPECIALLY THE POLICY OF FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH THE
STATES OF THE REGION, YOU SHOULD STRESS THAT THE MIDDLE
EAST FORCE HAS ALWAYS OPERATED IN THE PAST AND WILL
CONTINUE TO OPERATE IN THE FUTURE IN THE SPIRIT OF
SUPPORT FOR THIS POLICY.

4. WHILE WE APPRECIATE GOB'S DESIRE TO HAVE AS MUCH
AMMUNITION IN HAND AS POSSIBLE TO FACE CRITICS IN NATIONAL
ASSEMBLY AND FROM OTHER SOURCES, WE DO BELIEVE WE HAVE
ACTED IN GOOD FAITH TO MEET GOB'S POLITICAL REQUIREMENTS
FOR SHOWING MIDEASTFOR ARRANGEMENTS IN BEST POSSIBLE
DOMESTIC LIGHT.

5. YOU SHOULD REMIND THE RULER THAT WE HAVE PUT FORWARD
VERY POSITIVE PACKAGE, AS REQUESTED BY GOB, REGARDING
CIRCUMSTANCES FOR MIDEASTFOR'S REMAINING AT BAHRAIN.
WE STAND PREPARED TO CONCLUDE OUR COMPREHENSIVE DISCUSS-
ION WITH EXCHANGE OF LETTERS WHICH WE PROPOSED TO GOB
SOME FOUR WEEKS AGO. WE HAVE NOT THOUGHT IT NECESSARY
TO ENGAGE RULER RECENTLY IN DETAIL OF OUR DISCUSSIONS

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WITH HIS OFFICIALS, BUT BELIEVE IT WOULD BE VERY HELPFUL
IF HE WOULD NOW REVIEW WHERE WE STAND. WE HOPE HE WILL
AGREE IT IS IN OUR MUTUAL INTEREST TO CONCLUDE OUR DIS-
CUSSION ON BASIS OF UNDERSTANDINGS ALREADY REACHED. IN
ANY EVENT, WE WOULD WELCOME HIS FRANK VIEWS, AS ALWAYS,
IN SPIRIT OF OUR CLOSE RELATIONSHIP AND OUR DESIRE TO
INTENSIFY THE COOPERATION BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

6. AS BEFORE, WE CONTINUE WISH EARLY SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF NEGOTIATION AND WISH AVOID ANY STEP WHICH WOULD JEOPARDIZE SUCH CONCLUSION. IF YOU BELIEVE DEMARCHE AS REQUESTED ABOVE COULD BE HARMFUL TO OUR INTEREST, INFORM AT ONCE. KISSINGER

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